

REMARKS

In the November 29, 2007 Office Action, claims 24-27 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 1-23 were indicated as allowed. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the November 29, 2007 Office Action, Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 24-27 as indicated above in order to accept the allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 1-23 are pending, with claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 being the only independent claims. Applicant believes that no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search are raised by this Amendment since Applicant is merely cancelling the claims by this Amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 08-26174 (Nagase) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,276,230 (Crum et al.). In response, Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 24-27 as mentioned above. Therefore, Applicant believes that this rejection is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the November 29, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-23 were indicated as allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-23 are now in condition for allowance. Applicant believes that no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search are raised by this Amendment. In any case, reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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